



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240. (804) 698-4029 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines, a look at recycling news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Had a successful collection event? Have a recycling problem? Do you have an answer for the Question of the Month? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov.

Mulching Pumpkins with Recycled Newspaper

Faculty at the West Virginia University Extension Office report that using shredded or chopped newspapers as mulch is an environmentally friendly practice. Newspaper mulch has several advantages. Newspaper mulch provides weed control, and improves plant growth, fruit cleanliness, color and shape of fruit, increases yields, and helps to conserve soil moisture.

The West Virginia University Extension faculty recommends applying fertilizer before mulching. The chopped or shredded newspaper should be applied just before the vines begin to run. Mulch should be applied to a depth of 4 – 5 inches. Do not worry about applying too much newspaper. Early in the spring, move the mulch back 12 inches per row to allow for planting and so that the soil temperature can rise to the desired level. Once the soil has warmed and the vines are a desirable height, apply 4 – 5 inches of mulch around each plant. For more information go to: <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/wastmang/msw9.pdf>

Concrete Reuse -Virginia Leads by Example

Chinh Vu has won the National Innovation Award and the Governor's Public Service Award for Innovation for his work with the 14th Street Parking Deck Project in Richmond.

The Department of General Services contracted for the demolition of the Consolidate Laboratory Building and encouraged the reclamation of materials for recycling or reuse. This innovative approach resulted in a significant reduction in the construction cost of the new parking deck, saving the Commonwealth \$485,000 in disposal costs. 12,750 tons of concrete alone were processed on site and reused as backfill for the parking deck. Steel was also recycled under this contract.

Mr. Vu also received the "Green Builder of the Year for 2004" Award from the Virginia Recycling Association.

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Did You Know?

- ✓ The 2005 Scrap Tire and Rubber Users Directory is now available? For more information: <http://www.scraptirenews.com>
- ✓ The City of Alexandria in coordination with the Cooperative Extension Office in Arlington taught their citizens how to recycle the natural way by teaching them how to compost? They offered three classes in late September and early October to teach interested citizens how to compost.

Recycle Program Supports Scholarships

Kudos to the Students Against Global Abuse at Herndon High School! As school opened for the fall, SAGA announced a partnership with the federal agency, Minerals Management Service to revitalize recycling efforts. More than 300 businesses, churches and schools collected recycling materials for SAGA.

The money generated from the collection and recycling of white paper, colored paper, newspaper and aluminum cans goes to college scholarship funds. Over the years, the recycling program at Herndon High School has provided over \$200,000 in college scholarships.

As of September, 2005, SAGA had surpassed their 3 millionth pound of recycled refuse. SAGA has won community, county, state and national awards for their recycling initiatives.

Congratulations to the 2005 Virginia Recycling Association Awards for Excellence Winners:

Business and Industry – ERG, Inc

College or University Program (2 First Place winners)

James Madison University and University of Virginia

County or Municipal Program- Livingston's Blend Compost Program, Spotsylvania County

Government Agency, Institution or Non-Profit Organization – Tri-County Litter Prevention and Recycling Program

Greenbuilder of the Year - Linda Lloyd

Media Partner – Rex Springston and the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Recycler of the Year – Debbie Devine, Director of Recycling Southeastern Public Service Authority

Community Volunteer Program – Richmond Freecycle Network

Spotlight Award – "Recycle Rocks" Song by the Prince William County Youth Ambassadors written Ian McElhaney, Justin Baughman and Andrew Hoskins and sung by April Hariff

Appreciation Award for Board Service – Gloria Puffinburger